5/23/72

Dear Gary (no ccs.)

Glad to get urelt 19. Tried to phone Paul Valentine so he could speak to their science reporter, but he wasn't in. Your account of the meetings and the splattering on the fan (which hasn't reached here yet) are accounts of a legit story. Then I didn t call back because maybe you don't want a story?

I was away 5/6-12, got home to learn that Lil's sister's husband, father of the troubled boy, had died, then we were away evenings visiting them, Monday a.m. at funeral. I suppose you phoned just the few times we were away. Lil stayed close in because she celebrated my coming return by spraining the weak ankle again. Sorry we were not here.

Clare: one call after she left Chicago, then silence.

I told you long ago that Ned's wife was part of the problem. Without realizing it, he disclosed it so that Lil and I detected it, independently. Her interest is in enjoyment of his wealth and from this I presume his establishmentarian position also, requiring what she would regard as appropriate behavior and pure thoughts. He has not responded to the warning letter I sent him, but he has been a busy little beaver telling everybody things in confi ence, including PH, who I warned he'd best wonder if it is really in confidence or for immobolization. I suggested that is he has any doubts, consult you, that Ned is the creature of emotional problem the consequences of which can hurt us.

I suggest, not for the first time, that your thesis and degree is your first obligation to everyone, including yourself. Paraphrase Polonious. So, whatever your decision, it should be the one that speeds or helps getting that paper fastest.

Everyone reached the same Bremer conclusion: at last we have the lone, unassisted not so long solicited or encouraged to surface in so sick a land. Again I have troubling doubts, in two areas: financing, where he clearly has spent more than he could have had without some kind of help, if only innocent borrowing; and the most thoroughly professional unprofessionalism by the police on all levels except in this burg just before and by the local county police where he did it. The FBI in particular, on all levels and in all areas, most flagrant of which are the utterly incompetent search of the car, the announcing of the false red scare again and the delay in reaching his apartment and then not taking everything or posting a guard. I did a piece for the Nat. Enquirer in which I could modify their doctrine enough.

No approach yet to Rappaport. Groh valueless. Your generalities are correct, but almost entirely eliminated by any accurate reading of even incomplete medical records. This all preceeded any of my assassination work. Before the assassination. Began 1955 and signs recorded if not recognized by us within a couple of years. Even then there could have been other stresses, but I don't think so. No expert can say there were none, but we can testify and there'd be the obligation on the government to disprove. Besides, the shorthand of the first record a doctor recently found, two years after this began, reflects the three things together, my concern for Lil and what was happening to the business and one of the classic symptoms of anxiety, a feeling of weariness at a time when I worked like a horse and never lacked physical energy. My concern for Lil, obviously, was not that she was taking a club to me or growing a second head. The trouble, as you note, is th brevity of any records they made, when they made them, but this has to be a fair sample when they exist and the need of an expert is to interpret....I've been trying without success to get a better understanding of anxiety and how to cope with the stresses this trial and preparation will make inevitable. In the effort I saw the MD I consult and he explained about the hearing and feeling of the heartbeat, comprehensibly but other than you did. It is only when I'm in bed, most at rest, and only when I first get there. He said if I got out of bed and walked around a bit it would disappear. I haven't bothered. I take his word. I suspect my concern about the heart, which this seems to show, is a consequence of the life I've led in recent years, which would take the constitution of an ox, and the fact that

his first heart attack killed my father. Plus the development of occasional irregular beat at some time after the beginning of these stresses.

One of the confounding elements is not being afraid of what others are afraid of and fear for me about and yet being anxious about other things. Except for where it is free-floating, I can general correlate it with something, as the ultimate dirtiness of the feds in this case, getting started on it with the lawyer, his attitude. But about the assassination work, never, really, as a correlation. I am aware that I can be unaware, but the consumption of the tranquilizers I think will reflect this. In both of us. You know how I went around in N.O., where JG's people went in pairs and armed only; how I stayed in the home of a man who'd tried to kill JG and was then confined without habeas corpus for the security of the President ; how I interviewed the ultra-right mercenaries in their homes and after dark (Larry Howard showed me his hidden Luger afterward, but I went back and got him and Hemming); and in general travel freely and by myself. So I know that with this not troubling me, not being afraid to be alone with felons in privacy and in jail, not eschewing a scrap with Stoner, not being afraid to be alone with, to room and travel with Jerry Ray and not, so far as I can recall, ever doing anything on work that made me afraid, I assume no correlation between fear in the usual sense and anxiety, at least as I know it. Until recently I had really thought that my anxiety was Lil-oriented only, fear over what had happened and could happen to her, her reactions, etc.

Anyway, I'll have to sweat the expert out as best I can and I'll have to do most of the preparatioh of the case. I've been waiting to hear from the lawyer before writing Casey of Rappaport. I have Casey's address and can find R from the phone book. There must be some kind of record Casey left because without seeing Lil he prescribed Meprobamate and when he did see her with me he is the one who told us to get Lil away from those associations

The copy you sent is what you recall. Glad to have it. Keep the original. If I forget, I'm filing this, of all the places I could, with my notes of that particular trip. If you have forgotten, that number had never been issued and the strange chick gave it to me as the one she claimed to have been given for emergencies and it did not switch to an intercept the many times I called it. Daytime only, as I look back after so many events. Weird still. And atop that what happened to my luggage, etc. Which reminds, Matt is back and in Calif.

The situation of the nephew is not simple. He feared taking his car to that part of DC nightsx to go to the free clinic. But that is not unreasonable. So I got him going to one in Rockville, Md., which is closer to home. Only, he always sees somebody else and says he feels this keeps him from getting anywhere. Now he has a job during the hours they have. I know he asked to see a straight shrink but after two visots got turned off, so intermittently he is aware and willing. I have been making a bit of progress, but as he came to understand that I understood, he began to duck me. I got him here this weekend and leaned on him a bit, and it seems to have worked, for he undid one thing he had done while he had earlier insisted he hadn't done it. I don't thing there is anything unusual about his problems but fear they will become serious unless something is done. I am inclined to think I understand what they are and their root. But I know I can't be certain. He has a sentencing hearing Tursday a.m. and we'll be there. I have been trying to get the lawyer to see to it that it include psychiatric treatment not because it might impel the judge to leniency but because it might assure it. He did not call me back last time I called him, but from something he told the mother last night I think he may plan it, so we'll get there early to help along with this. That stupid caper was letting himself be talked into others pulling a small heist and using his car for a getaway. He fantasized about even this to his lawyer (as he has to me of other things and greatly in excess of the norm for his age or possibility, for his fantasies include the physically impossible). Lil has often said she wished you could be here sometimes when he is because he might trust you and follow your recommendations. I don't think it would last, that he requires more motivation and when a low self-concept appears to be involved, I presume that can come only with more difficulty.

Anyway, thanks for the name. I'll have to find out if the DCclinic is open days and get him there if it is. Best regards from us both,